Pages Missing

## History of the Alphabet.

How many of the millions that daily use the alphabet ever stop to think of its origin and long history? In the true spirit of a student, Isaac Taylor, a well known English writer on philosophical and philological subjects, has recently written and published, in London, two stout volumes under the title: "The Alphabet, an Account of the Origin and Development of letters." It is only by help of recent discoveries of early inscriptions and the progress in the art of reading lost languages and deciphering hitherto unknown symbols, that such a well posted history has become possible. By careful study of the learned essays and scientific investigations of the latest philologists, Taylor has set forth in language of easy comprehension the origin of the alphabet, showing that our own "Roman" letters may be followed back to their very beginning, some twenty or more centuries ago, as he asserts. We have no better letters, according to this account, than those of the Italian printers of the fifteenth century. These were imitated from the beautiful manuscripts of the tenth and eleventh centuries, the lettering of these being derived from the Roman of the Augustan age. The Roman letters, in turn, are traced to those employed at Rome in the third century B C, and these do not differ greatly from forms used in the earliest existing specimens of Latin writing, dating from the fifth century B. C. This primitive alphabet of Rome was derived from a local form of the Greek alphabet, in use about the sixth century B. C and that was a variety of the earliest Greek alphabet belonging to the eighth, or even the ninth century B. C. The Greeks got their letters from the Phœnicians, and theirs are clearly traceable in the most ancient known form of the Semitic.

The most ancient of books, a papyrus found at Thebes, and now preserved in the French National Library, supplies the earliest forms of the letters used in the Semitic alphabet. The Stone Tables of the Law could have been possible to the Jews only because of their possession of an alphabet, and thus the Bible and modern philological science unite in ascribing a common origin to the alphabet which is in daily use throughtout the world. The nineteenth century B. C. is held by Taylor to be the approximate date of the origin of alphabetic writing, and from that time it grew by slow degrees, while from Egypt, the home of the Jews during their long captivity, the knowledge of the alphabet was carried in all directions where alphabets are now found.

The Aryans are now thought to have been the first to bring the primitive alphabet to perfection, and each letter and each sound may be traced, by Taylor's careful analysis, through all the changes that have marked the growth, progress, and in some instances the decay of different letters of various alphabets. It is an interesting fact that the oldest known "A B C" in existence is a child's alphabet, scratched on a little ink bottle of black ware, found in one of the oldest Greek settlements in Italy, attributed to the 5th century B. C. The earliest letters, and many later ones are known only by inscriptions, and it is the rapid increase, by recent discoveries, of these precious fragments that has inspired more diligent research and quickened the zeal of learned students in mastering the elements of knowledge of their origin and history throughout the world. As late as 1876 there were found in Cyprus some bronze plates inscribed with Phœnician characters, dating back to the tenth, even the eleventh century B. C.

Coins, engraved gems, inscribed statues, and, last of all, the Siloam inscription, found in 1880 at Jerusalem, on the wall of an old tunnel, have supplied new material for the history. From the common mother of many alphabets, the Phœnician, are descended the Greek and other European systems on the one side, including that which we use and have the greatest interest in; and on the other, the alphabets of Asia, from which have sprung those of the East, Syriac, Arabic, and Hebrew.


### A Long Time.

Fifteen years of suffering from the tortures of Dyspepsia is indeed a long time. A. Burns, blacksmith, of Cobourg, was thus afflicted, but it only required four bottles of Burdock Blood Bitters to completely cure him.


## In the Tail of a Comet.

An ingeneous theorizer has written a book which was published by the Appletons, to prove that many ages since the earth must have passed through the tail of a comet, and that certain disturbances observed on the surface of our planet were caused thereby. The scratches and erosions from the northeast and southwest found upon hills and mountains in the northern hemisphere were attributed to the action of the more solid matter of the comet's tail, leaving its marks, together with the bowlders and detached rocks, which are found in such profusion in the Temperate and Frigid Zones. Although this theory would account for much that is mysterious, it has not been accepted by scientists, as it is not believed that tails of comets are formed of any solid material. Early in December last, some curious atmospheric phenomena were noticed in different portions of the world. At sunset and before sunrise the heavens were permeated with a glow of rosy light, such as might have been caused if a great conflagration had been raging. These strange appearances were noticed in both Europe and America. They have puzzled the scientific world. But some venturesome theorists have again put forward the hypothesis of the world being surrounded by the atmosphere of a comet's tail. It is known that about the time these phenomena occurred our planet was in the track of Bela's comet, and in a part of the heavens that was filled with meteors. It is known that comets are more numerous in the heavens than fishes are in the waters of the earth. Their numbers are so great as to be inconceivable to the human mind, and it is not at all improbable that the earth in past times may have been entangled in the tails of these wonders of the sky. We live in a marvelous universe. "There are two things," said the great philosopher Kant, 'which always fills me with awe and admiration, and these are the wondrous heavens by which we are surrounded and the moral law within."—*Demorest's Monthly.*

## The Spanish Beauty.

We in America are apt to judge of the Spaniard by the Mexican and the Cuban. Nothing can be more different. Whatever their faults or virtues, the Hispano-Americans seem to have taken nothing but the language from what of the conqueror's blood they may have. All else has come from the native. Unbroken in pride, unabashed by evil habits, self-respecting, sober in speech as in food, the Iberian needs only a leader to again take his rightful place in the family of nations. And the woman? Is she beautiful? I hardly know, but she is the most bewitching, bewildering, fascinating of all Eve's daughters. There is a magic in her step, a poise of foot, a grace of rythmic motion, a proud tenderness in her dark eye, a something voluptuous which is yet chaste, a magic in her smile, such as no other race or clime can show. Beautiful? A man whose blood runs red in his veins may see beauty elsewhere, but he has never felt the perfect charms of woman's loveliness until he has met love looking from the melting brightness of those matchless orbs, which none but Spain's dark-glancing maidens bear. There is no neglect here. The dress may not be rich, but there is not a fold ill placed. To her is paid the reverence of passionate devotion. Still is Spain the land of romance and of song, because her men are brave, her women worthy to be oved.

## They Saw it All.

Taylor, the wizard, got a $90 house in Paso del Norte, and then said that he would show the assemblage a trick that would open their eyes, termed "The Mystic Manner or the Disappearance." He brought out a large box and said:—"I will now shut myself up in this box; the trick is to find me." Five minutes later everybody knew that he had escaped from the rear with the receipts of the evening, and a coat belonging to an employe of the theatre.


### Get the Original.

Dr. Pierce's "Pellets"— the original "Little Liver Pills" (sugar-coated)—cure sick and bilious headache, sour stomach, and bilious attacks. By druggists.


## The Romance of a Bank Note.

In the year 1749 one of the directors of the Bank of England, a man of unimpeachable honor, lost a bank note for £30,000, under peculiar circumstances. It seems he had bought an estate for that money, and for convenience sake obtained a note for that amount. As he was about to put it under lock and key, after he reached home, he was called out of the room, whereupon, as he thought, he placed it upon the mantelpiece. Upon returning, a few minutes later, the note had disappeared. It could not have been stolen, for no one had entered the room, whereupon he concluded that it had been blown into the fire and had been consumed. He laid the matter before the officers of the bank, and they reissued a note for the same amount, he giving bonds to reimburse the bank if the note should ever be presented for payment. Thirty years after, when he had long been dead and his estate distributed among his heirs, the supposed non-existent note turned up at the bank counter for payment. As the bank could not afford to dishonor the obligation, the money was paid out, and the heirs of the dead man were asked to make good the loss; this they refused to do, nor could the bank employ any legal machinery to force them to do so. The person who profited by the matter was supposed to be a builder, employed to pull down the dead man's house and build another on its site. He found the missing £30,000 note in a crevice in the chimney, in which it somehow got lodged after being laid on the mantelpiece. It must have been kept many years, and its presentation to the bank was so arranged that the builder became a rich man by a sudden stroke of blind fortune.


### Feather Flowers

It requires a certain amount of patience to achieve success in making feather flowers, while satisfactory resuls are sure to add a smiling beauty to the adorning of an artistically appointed household. Fashionables rusticating in the country can easily procure a bunch of white geese feathers and amuse themselves an hour or so by cutting out of these feathers leaves like the flowers that are to be copied. Make the bulbs of beeswax and rosin, mixed together in equal proportions; to this stick the leaves, the stamens and centre parts of the wire and zephyr. In painting the leaves, a nice delicate touch should be had in order to give a natural effect. Get tube paints—such as are used for oil paintings. After painting the leaves lay them aside to dry. Do not use them for ten or twelve hours at least. A tube each of chrome yellow, rose madder, clear white, and Prussian blue will be all the paints required to produce a lovely bouquet. Mix the yellow and blue to obtain green for painting the leaves. With a little practice in mixing the paints they can be made as beautiful as wax. There are several ways to use feather flowers beside clustering them. A wreath, a cross, an anchor, and birds are often made and placed in boxes with a rich velvet background and fine glass in front, bordered with a framework of velvet, or wood exquisitely covered with water-colored pictures, making an elegant parlor ornament.


## Mere Luxury.

An enterprising Chinaman has recently opened a restaurant in Paris, and is now endeavoring to educate the Western palate to appreciate the subtile excellence of rotten eggs and bird's nest soup. In order to prepare the former luxuries in their full perfection fresh duck's eggs are covered with a mixture of cinders, chalk, lye, soda, powdered liquorice root and oil, and are then left for several months, until their yolk becomes first green and finally black. The darker the yolk the greater the delicacy. The bird's nest from which the far-famed soup is made are built by a species of swallow that abounds on the coasts of Java, Ceylon and Borneo, and practically consist of a gelatinous substance obtained from marine plants. The nests are boiled either in chicken broth, or in milk of almonds; and the result very much resembles vermicelli soup, save that it is far more costly. The Chinese restaurateur also offers his customers smoked sharks' fins, dried cuttle-fish, and salted rats; but whether he will make a living by the sale of such toothsome dainties as these to the Parisians is more than doubtful.

The man who at the first of the year resolved to quit smoking has compromised by ing ten instead of twelve cigars a day.


Thousands of women bless the day on which Dr. Pierce's "Favorite Prescription" was made known to them. In all those derangements causing backache, dragging-down sensations, nervous and general debility, it is a sovereign remedy. Its soothing and healing properties render it of the utmost value to ladies suffering from "internal fever," congestion, inflammation, or ulceration. By druggists.

Richard Neusman, of Preston, England, who recently died, left to that town his entire collection of pictures, porcelain and bronzes. It is said that the pictures alone, ten years ago, were valued at between $300,000 and $350,000.

Amos Hudgin, Toronto, writes: "I have been a sufferer from Dyspepsia for the past six years. All the remedies I tried proved useless, until Northrop and Lyman's Vegetable Discovery and Dyspeptic Cure was brought under my notice. I have used two bottles with the best results, and can with confidence recommend it to those afflicted in like manner."


Out west the cellar is the place to go in time of cyclones, and when a man has a barrel of cider in the cellar it's surprising how many times a day he thinks there's a cyclone coming!


What makes me laugh when others sigh?
No tears can e'er bedew mine eye
It is because I always buy—Briggs' Life Pills.

What is it makes me hale and stout,
And all my friends can't make it out.
I really could not live without—Briggs' Life Pills.

So if you're sad, or grieved, or ill,
Pray, do not pay a doctor's bill,
But take a dose of—Briggs' Life Pills.


They were about to bury a grandchild of General Turner, of Memphis, when some one insisted that it should be bathed and slapped on the back. It is now alive and doing well.


Dr. Pierce's "Favorite Prescription," for all those weaknesses peculiar to women, is an unequalled remedy. Distressing backache and "bearing-down" sensations yield to its strength-giving properties. By druggists.


Senator Saulsbury is called the Lone Star of the Senate because he is the only member of that body who has never been married.

The progress of medical enlightenment has led to the abandonment of many antiquated remedies of questionable value, and the adoption of newer and more rational ones. Prominent among the latter is Northrop and Lyman's Vegetable Discovery and Dyspeptic Cure, the justly celebrated Blood Purifier, a comprehensive family remedy for liver complaint, constipation, indigestion, loss of physical energy, and female complaints.

Thomas Nast, as the Boston *Transcript* learns, still "sends his sketches to the Harpers every week and they are pigeonholed by Mr. Curtis, while Harpers pay him under contract $10,000 a year for life."


Sick and bilious headache, and all derangements of stomach and bowels, cured by Dr. Pierce's "Pellets"—or antibilious granules. 25 cents a vial. No cheap boxes to allow waste of virtues. By druggists.


The women of England are waking up to their privileges. In Oxford, at the approach of the municipal election, the ladies summoned a meeting of the women voters. Mrs. Prof. Max Muller was the chairman, and the wife of an alderman made an able and eloquent speech. So says the Pall Mall *Gazette*, which approves of it too.


"Became Sound and Well."

*HATCHER'S STATION, Ga., Mar. 27, '76.*

R. V. PIERCE, M.D.: *Dear Sir*—My wife, who had been ill for over two years, and had tried many other medicines, became sound and well by using your "Favorite Prescription." My niece was also cured by its use, after several physicians had failed to do her any good.

Yours truly, THOS. J. METHVIN.

# The Ladies' Journal

**Devoted to Literature, Fashion, &c.**

MARCH, 1884.

Printed and published by S. FRANK WILSON, 33 and 35 Adelaide Street, West, Toronto, Ontario.


**OUR PATTERNS.**

**Any pattern illustrated in these pages can be obtained by addressing S. FRANK WILSON, Publisher, 33 & 35 Adelaide St. West, Toronto. Always remit price of pattern with order, please.**

## ONWARD.

It is our intention, commencing with next issue of the LADIES' JOURNAL, to considerably improve the paper in many respects. It will be set in new type: a short and serial story of very great interest; a Household Department; and other improvements, which our readers will not be slow to appreciate. Please recommend the JOURNAL to your friends, and so help to still further improve it, as it is our intention to spend *all our profits* for the next year or two to bring the JOURNAL up to what we consider a proper standard. Show your appreciation of our efforts by handing this copy to a friend after you read it.

## Review of Fashion.

There has been a lack of great and thrilling novelty in fashions of late years, and some persons wonder how it is. They do not see very far, and they only know that Fashion in time past has been accused of abominable things, of wild caprices and extravagance, of sudden revolutions and unexpected movements, of changes from one extreme to another; and though there was absurdity, there was also a certain kind of fascination in these daring and unlooked-for enterprisals. It is a little disappointing not to have something of the kind happen now, not to be obliged to resist the temptation to commit a folly, or exercise courage in being the first to venture on a supreme and startling eccentricity. We are becoming almost too reasonable, too practical; we do not diverge from the sensible, we stick to the short street dress, we cannot be persuaded to take up hoops, and all the tendency of ideas is toward relieving the complexity of dress rather than adding to it. To be sure there has been a senseless revivals of the low-necked evening dress during the past season, but then how few adopted it compared with the great majority that did not! and after all it is tha majority that counts. The few women who did had not much to be proud of; they simply labelled themselves retograders, they only announced themselves as incapable of progress, and they looked ridiculous, or worse. The time has gone by when women can make a fashion of bare necks and arms, and there is a time coming when it considered as disgusting for women to make such an exhibition of themselves as for men.

One fashion has been introduced during the year that iis past which holds its own and is likely to do so for some time to come —it is that of the full front, gathered or plaited as shirt, vest, plastron, or entire length of dress. It is so becoming to slender figures, and admits such pretty combinations and so much variety, that it is not likely to lose its hold for the present. The fashion of immense figures in fabrics has not been relinquished; on the contrary, it continues, but modistes are learning better how to dispose of them; they are no longer used for bodices and but little for trains; they are employed for the narrow fronts of dresses, for panels, for plastrons, but not for the back, which must always be narrow to be elegant, and in which, therefore, these great figures do not only show to advantage, but in which they disfigure the wearer. Of course this refers to the raised figures, the cones, the fruits, the tropical leaves, and shaded balls which have been applied in such novel ways to the ground of rich fabrics, producing relief effects far more startling than embroidery, the depth of the design being often from half an inch to three-quarters in actual thickness. The scroll and serpentine patterns, that are undetached and form long lines, are not open to these strictures, and may be used interchangeably for front and panels, or train.

An attempt has been made to revive "dead" white satin for brides and for evening dresses, and soften the hard, chalky effect with tulle. This delicate fabric is always becoming, and placed *over* white satin, the effect is not bad, particularly if the wearer is young, and has a fair complexion; but we do not advise persons to choose dead white satin who will bring it in direct contact with the skin, or whose complexion is in the least harsh or florid; for these a tint, and the softening influence of lace is necessary. The lovely narcissus, lily of the valley, white hyacinths, and white carnations have all been used of late in the construction of bridal garnitures and bouquets, but lilies of the valley have occupied the chief place, and not alone for brides, but for corsage bouquets, and *boutonnieres*. Soon we shall have the white lilac as an element in floral ornamentation, for one of the pleasant signs of the times is the habit which is becoming daily more prevalent of selecting the flower in season for purposes of decoration.

MISSES' COSTUMES

FIG. 1. — Costume of dark blue, cloth-finished flannel, combined with blue and white shepherds' check wool. The "Avis" jacket and the "Elvine" skirt are combined in the costume, the plain fabric forming the jacket and drapery on the skirt, and the check the broad kilt-plaits. The jacket is cut-away in front from a pointed vest of blue velvet, and the effect of revers is imparted by numerous rows of the "Kursheedt Standard" black silk braid, the same garniture simulating cuffs on the sleeves. The neck is finished with a turned-over collar and notched revers of velvet, and additional fullness is imparted to the back of the skirt by plaits let in at the seams. The drapery on the skirt is simply hemmed, and is supported in a "hooped" shape on the back by straps of velvet which loop it high on the sides. The double illustration, showing the back view, is given among the separate fashions. Hat of dark blue straw, faced with blue velvet, and trimmed with a sash and long ends of fancy ribbon. The jacket pattern is in sizes for from twelve to sixteen years. Price, twenty cents each. Skirt patterns in sizes for from twelve to sixteen years. Price, twenty-five cents each.

instead of depending entirely upon exotics.

At this early date there is not much to say in regard to spring fashions, but it may be stated that the colors likely to be in vogue will be fawns, smoke gray, blue gray, brown, yellow, and black with white; costumes of silk and wool, or satin and wool, will take the place of wool and velvet. The polonaise will be very popular, but that does not mean that it is suitable for stately or ceremonious dress. Naturally it is convenient, rather than formal, and if a lady was having a silk made up which she desired should be suitable for "any" occaion, she would be more likely to select the trimmed skirt and basque than thepolonaise, although the latter is more in demand at this present season. It is useful for in or out-door wea when heavy wraps are no longer needed, and conceals the defects of half worn skirts. The polonaise is, besides, capable of much picturesque variety, and nothing could be imagined prettier for a young girl than one of old china blue, with red wafers, drawn back from a Moliere front and ruffled skirt of nun's veiling.

Some of the most beautiful dresses made for the coming season are combinations of fine wool with satin, and Ottoman silk with velvet. The cords of the Ottoman are extraordinarily large, and the combination especially in the fawn shades, very effective.

## Almost a Catastrophe.

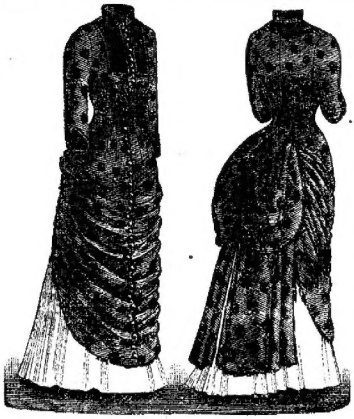
When a lady and gentleman were driving along Gerrard street the other day, a nurse girl wheeling a baby in its carriage, attempted to cross the street in front of the horse. The driver drew up just in time to allow the girl to make the passage safely, but by wheeling it rapidly, the baby's carriage was made to sway from side to side, and the infant had no sooner escaped being run over, than it was thrown violently on the road by the capsizing of its own tiny vehicle. It was one of those objectionable sort of perambulators, having the two front wheels of small size, very close together under the dash-board. Had the carriage been properly constructed with large front wheels, sufficiently wide apart to allow the front of the carriage body to rest down between them, the carriage would not sway. All Whitney baby carriages are made on this improved principle. Ask for a Whitney Carriage and take no other, and see that it has Whitney's trade mark stamped underneath the body. If your store-keeper does not handle them, send a post-card to Smith & Fudger, Toronto, wholesale agents, and they will send you the address of a respectable retailer who does Whitney's is the largest factory in the world. They average 100 carriages per day the year round, and have 125 styles for you to choose from.

## Tucked Dresses.

Simple dresses of white, pale yellow, gray, and blue linen, and other light solid materials are being made with short skirt tucked lengthwise from the bottom to the top. The bodice is round and belted in, or the skirt may be accompanied by a blouse waist, also tucked and belted. This lengthwise tucking is light and lovely in simple summer materials, and is especially adapted to delicate tints and summer afternoon wear. But it is folly to overload it with drapery, because that destroys its motive and is entirely out of harmony with its idea. Lengthwise tucking is more becoming to almost all figures than the all-round tucks.

The Emperor of China's 200-year old bedstead must have absorbed a great deal of "rough on bugs" in its lifetime. That and the 200-year old pair of socks found in an Egyptian tomb would make a boom for a dime museum.

APS L33 xfol. Reserve



VIRNETTA POLNNAISE.

Practical in design and extremely graceful, this polonaise is tight-fitting, with the usual number of darts in front, a deep dart taken out under each arm, side forms rounding to the arm-holes, and the back pieces cut rather short and draped over a skirt-piece, falling in full box-plaits. This model is suitable for any class of dress goods, and may be trimmed in any style to suit the taste and material selected, or made up plainly, as illustrated, if of cloth or similar woollen fabrics. Price of patterns, thirty cents each size.

CHRISTINE BASQUE.

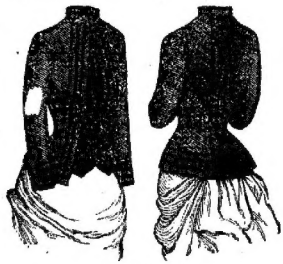
ceptionally graceful design, especially suitable for woollen fabrics in combination with heavier goods, the front having a decidedly military effect, imparted by the broad revers turning back from a vest, which will be seen in the illustration of the front view on Fig. 2 in the full page engraving. This illustration shows it made in bison cloth of a deep mastic color, with vest and plaiting in the back of finely checked satin, dark blue and gold, and the revers and sleeves trimmed with rows of dark blue velvet ribbon. Price of patterns, twenty-five cents each.

LUSANNA COSTUME.

Simple but very effective, this costume is arranged with gored skirt trimmed with a kilt-plaiting, over which is draped a polonaise with double-breasted black fronts and bouffant back drapery. The polonaise is tight-fitting, with the usual number of darts in front, side gores under the arms, side forms rounding to the arm holes and a seam down the middle of the back, which is cut with extensions gathered on to the short side forms. Any class of dress goods is suitable for this design, which may be trimmed in accordance with the material selected. Price of patterns, thirty cents each size.

LILEA MANTELET.

Dressy, and at the same time simple in design, this mantelet is cut with long tabs in front, and the backs considerably shorter, cut in pointed shape and slightly fitted by a curved seam down the middle, while the shoulder pieces are gathered to produce a high effect, and inserted in dolman style. This model is appropriate for silk, satin surah, brocaded velvet, Sicilienne, cashmere, camel's hair cloth, etc., and also for many varieties of dress goods to match the costume. Trimmings should be selected to correspond with the material chosen. For black fabrics, the "Kursheedt Standard" black silk laces in Chantilly and Spanish patterns will be very effective, and may constitute the whole or a part of the garniture. Patterns in two sizes, medium and large. Price, twenty-five cents each.



DOTHA BASQUE.

A stylish model, arranged with a vest front under the cut-away basque, which is tight-fitting with a single dart in each side in front, side gores under the arms, and a French back laid in side plaits. Coat sleeves and a small standing collar complete the design, which is suitable for any class of dress goods, and is well adapted for a combination of materials. Rows of velvet ribbon, as illustrated, form an appropriate garniture for any silk or woolen fabric, but any other trimming may be substituted, according to taste and the material selected. Patterns in sizes for from eight to twelve years. Price, twenty cents each.

BETHA VISITE.

Simple, yet elegant in design, this visite is cut with long, pointed fronts falling loosely from the throat, a short back fitted slightly by a curved seam down the middle, and open sleeves inserted in dolman style. Any class of goods usually selected for dressy wraps may be employed in making up this visite, which may be trimmed as illustrated with fringe, or in any other style appropriate to the material selected. Patterns in two sizes, medium and large. Price ty cents each.

# LET ME BE NEAR THEE.

For Soprano or Tenor.

By LOUIS MEYER.

*Moderato.*

Let me be near thee in weal and in woe; To bless thee and cheer thee where'er thou may'st go, In sor - row to soothe thee, in joy to ca - ress. To share all thy troubles and make them seem less. To

Let me be near thee where'er thou may'st roam, Where'er thou may'st wander I'd call it my home; There is not a sor - - row for thee I'd not bear, There is not a dan - ger with thee I'd not share, Tho'